

history of the state, we built the most beautiful structure in the history of the state. One of the obligations that I think you and I as state senators have, separate and apart from careful examination of legislation, is preservation of this structure, its continuation of our heritage and one of the things that I think we need to think about as we work to preserve this structure is how it can be upgraded, how it can be made even more beautiful than it currently is. Of course one of the things that we need to do, and everyone agrees we need to do this, there is absolutely no dispute about doing this, is we need very simply to upgrade the quality of the legislative hearing rooms. So the only real issue is timing, is it better to do it now or next year or the year thereafter or what have you. As Senator Marsh pointed out, the way this little amendment and appropriation is cut, we won't even start the work on the hearing rooms until after the 1984 legislative session. We would begin in May, 1984 and carry over the summer of '84 and the fall of '84 so we came back into session in '85 we would have two new hearing rooms. Now this is 1983. This is 1983, it takes us two years to get those hearing rooms on line. That is why if you put your money up, you have to make your commitment now to assure you will have the hearing rooms two years from now. Two years from now. If we simply decide to wait another year or another two years then those two hearing rooms won't be on line until '87 or '88. So my feeling is we might as well get started now. Now Senator Warner comments that he questions priorities of the Legislature in this sense, that if the Legislature can cut out lots of money, for example on the university and yet come back in and put in money for its own hearing rooms or else public space that is some. . . he has a question with that kind of priority item. The truth of the matter, in my opinion, is not as though I want to blow our own horns about the importance of the Legislature but you know the Legislature is the bulwark of the democratic process and this Legislature that passes the legislation and appropriates the money and also hears from the public. Now in a Unicameral system the public, the public in a sense serves as a second house. We make sure that they are there. We make sure that every bill is subject to public scrutiny. We give the public a real opportunity to talk. It strikes me that one of the things that we need to do for the public, as well as for ourselves, as well as for our democratic structure of government, is to assure the public and ourselves that we have adequate room. That is all that this does. I suggest we amend LB 630, we appropriate an additional \$200,000 this next year and an additional \$366, the following year and we get these hearing